

Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant Proposal

Program Preferences

Attachment 6 consists of the following item:

✓ Program Preferences.

Attachment 6 contains information regarding how this USMW IRWM Planning Grant Proposal will result in development of an IRWM Plan that addresses the IRWM Program Preferences established within Section II.F of the 2010 *Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines* (2010 Guidelines).

Program Preferences

The Program Preferences described in Section II.F of the IRWM Grant Program Guidelines are those set forth in PRC §75026.(b) and CWC §10544. These preferences are summarized in **Table 6-1**.

Table 6-1: Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities

Program Preferences	Statewide Priorities
1. Include regional projects or programs	1. Drought Preparedness
2. Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; RWQCB region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR	2. Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently
3. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions	3. Climate Change Response Actions
4. Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program	4. Expand Environmental Stewardship
5. Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region	5. Practice Integrated Flood Management
6. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning	6. Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
7. For eligible SWFM funding not receiving State funding pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §75034, provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge.	7. Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources
8. Address Statewide priorities (<i>see column to the right</i>)	8. Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

In accordance with requirements set within the *Proposal Solicitation Package for Round 2 Planning Grants (PSP)*, this attachment contains information that demonstrates how the work to be completed within this Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Grant Proposal (Proposal) will result in an IRWM Plan Update that addresses the IRWM Program Preferences listed within Table 6-1. Also in accordance with the PSP, this attachment highlights portions of the work contained within the Work Plan (refer to Attachment 3) that when implemented will meet the Program Preferences.

Table 6-2 identifies the Program Preferences that will be addressed through implementation of this Proposal. Please note that *Task 4, Proposal Administration* is not expected to address any Program Preferences, because work proposed under this task will be administrative in nature.

Table 6-2: Work Plan Proposal and Program Preferences

Work Plan Proposal Tasks	1: Regional Projects	2: Integrate Water Mgmt	3: Resolve Conflict	4: Bay-Delta Objectives	5: Benefits DACs	6: Land Use Planning	7: Stormwater Resource Plan	8: Statewide Priorities
Task 1: Outreach and Communication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Task 2: Planning Studies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Task 3: IRWM Plan Update	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Task 4: Grant Administration								
USMW Planning Grant Proposal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Program Preference 1: Include Regional Projects or Programs

As shown in **Table 6-2**, all of the tasks included within this Proposal pertain to the Program Preference of including regional projects or programs pursuant to CWC §10544. The following provides detailed information that highlights portions of the Proposal that when implemented will meet this Program Preference.

Task 1: Outreach and Communication

Task 1 contains many outreach activities that will lead to the development of an IRWM Plan Update that includes regional projects or programs. First, due to the wide breadth of outreach included within Task 1, outreach efforts aim to reach all interested regional stakeholders, as well as inter-regional stakeholders located within the San Diego Funding Area. This broad and comprehensive outreach effort will lead to increased interaction among potential project proponents throughout the entire Region, as well as engage interregional stakeholders that could also potentially serve as project proponents. As such, Task 1 will provide outreach that will serve to bring regional and interregional stakeholders together, therefore providing a vehicle through which a variety of stakeholders throughout the Region could coordinate on developing regional projects or programs for incorporation within the IRWM Plan Update.

In addition, outreach efforts will include continued notification regarding IRWM opportunities such as IRWM grant opportunities. Outreach included within Task 1-3 such as public workshops, communications through the stakeholder email list, communications through the IRWM website,



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

production of newsletters, public noticing, and targeted fact sheets, will provide a forum for keeping regional stakeholders informed about the IRWM process, and alert stakeholders about the opportunity for incorporating projects or programs into the IRWM Plan Update. Therefore, these outreach efforts will ensure that stakeholders throughout the Region are informed about IRWM-related efforts, and will facilitate incorporation of regional projects and/or programs into the IRWM Plan Update.

Task 2: Planning Studies

The *Temecula Valley Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan* (Plan) (Task 2-2) included within Task 2 is regional in scope, and therefore constitutes a regional program. As demonstrated in *Attachment 3, Work Plan*, the Plan will encompass the large majority of the Region, including the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed and a portion of the San Mateo Watershed. The Plan will be incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update (Task 3-3), therefore ensuring that the work completed under Task 2-2 will result in an IRWM Plan Update that addresses the Program Preference of including regional projects or programs.

Similarly, the Regional Retrofit Opportunities Study (Task 2-3) included within Task 2 is regional in scope in that it addresses regional water quality issues associated with urbanization, and contains development of a retrofit program framework that will facilitate addressing water quality impacts on a regional level. This study will be incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update (Task 3-3), which will ensure that the work completed under Task 2-2 will result in an IRWM Plan Update that addresses the Program Preference of including regional projects or programs.

Task 3: IRWM Plan Update

As indicated in detail in *Attachment 3, Work Plan*, the IRWM Plan Update will address water resources management throughout the USMW Region and will include extensive stakeholder outreach. This extensive outreach to stakeholders throughout the Region ensures that input and collaboration necessary to develop the IRWM Plan Update will be regional in scope; therefore ensuring that the IRWM Plan Update itself identifies conflicts, challenges, and water management solutions from throughout the Region.

While specific projects and programs that will be included within the IRWM Plan Update have not yet been determined, it is certain that the IRWM Plan Update will contain regional projects or programs as a result of the extensive stakeholder outreach described under Task 1.

Program Preference 2: Effectively Integrate Water Management Programs and Projects within the USMW IRWM Region

The existing USMW IRWM Plan and all of the work included within this Proposal will address the Program Preference of effectively integrating water management programs and projects within a region specifically identified by DWR. DWR specifically approved the USMW IRWM region as part of the Region Acceptance Process that occurred in 2009. All work completed for the existing IRWM Plan and work included within the Proposal will address issues within the USMW IRWM Region, and will therefore effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a region specifically identified by DWR. The following provides detailed information that highlights portions of the current IRWM Plan and the Proposal that when implemented will meet this Program Preference.



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

The current IRWM Plan's purpose was to "take a balanced and consensus-based approach that will provide for the protection and sustainability of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed's (Region's) water resources, natural resources, and habitats (2007 IRWM Plan Executive Summary). The purpose of the USMW IRWM Plan Update will be to reflect changing conditions, expand stakeholder involvement, and coordinate inter-regional efforts throughout the DWR-approved Region in accordance with the 2010 Guidelines, and will therefore include water management programs and projects within the Region. As such, the work contained within this Proposal will result in an IRWM Plan Update that effectively integrates water management programs and projects within the DWR-identified USMW IRWM Region.

Program Preference 3: Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts

As demonstrated within *Attachment 3, Work Plan*, the Region faces several key issues that need to be addressed in the IRWM Plan Update. Those issues include: groundwater in the Anza Area, salt and nutrient management, and water quality associated with urbanization. The planning studies included within Task 2 of the Proposal will address all of the aforementioned key issues, Task 1 will ensure that the results of the planning studies are communicated to stakeholders, and Task 3 will ensure that the results of the planning studies are included within the IRWM Plan Update.

Task 1: Outreach and Communication

The purpose of Task 1 is to increase and improve stakeholder involvement in order to increase stakeholder engagement and input during development of the IRWM Plan Update. As such, Task 1 will include the outreach necessary to ensure that work being completed under the IRWM Program is working to resolve conflicts by educating stakeholders about IRWM activities and soliciting stakeholder input and involvement.

Task 2: Planning Studies

The purpose of each planning study included within Task 2 is to complete planning work that will directly address one of the key regional issues outlined within the Work Plan.

Task 2-1 will involve the development of a groundwater study within the Anza Area, a disadvantaged community that faces substantial groundwater issues and is in need of a formal Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP). Work proposed under Task 2-1 will provide further planning work that is necessary to move the Anza Area forward in completing and adopting a GWMP, which is critical to effectively resolve water rights issues and ensure long-term water supply sustainability for a disadvantaged community.

Task 2-2 will involve the development of a salt and nutrient management plan that will allow the Region to address salt and nutrient issues within the Temecula Valley Basin area, comply with provisions established by the State Water Resources Control Board, and address unique regional conditions associated with agriculture, water quality, and use of recycled water. As such, Task 2-2 will effectively resolve water quality issues associated with moving from septic to sewer in the Wine Country Area and recycled water use, and allow the Region to continue permitting of new recycled water projects while ensuring that such projects do not jeopardize water quality.

Task 2-3 will involve the development of a regional retrofit opportunities study that will economically and holistically address the urban-related water quality issues within the County of Riverside. This study will address a key source of water quality issues (urban development) and



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

develop a program that will work to effectively solve these issues, which will effectively resolve water quality issues once the program is implemented.

Task 3: IRWM Plan Update

The purpose of Task 3 will be to incorporate work completed under Task 1 and Task 2 and complete additional work necessary to produce a standards-compliant IRWM Plan Update for the Region. Addressing key regional issues within a robust stakeholder outreach process will effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts. Work completed under Task 3 will ensure that all information, analysis, and recommendations are included within the IRWM Plan Update, therefore ensuring that the IRWM Plan Update addresses the IRWM Program Preference of effectively resolving significant water-related conflicts within the Region.

Program Preference 4: Contribute to Attainment of One or More of the Objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has the following four objectives: Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem Restoration, and Levee Integrity (<http://calwater.ca.gov/>).

- *Water Quality*: the objective of this program is to invest in projects that improve the state's water quality from source to tap.
- *Water Supply*: this objective is comprised of five critical elements: conveyance, storage, environmental water account, water use efficiency and water transfer. Together and in partnership with local and regional agencies, this program allows for the increase of water supplies and more efficient and flexible use of water resources.
- *Ecosystem Restoration*: this objective aims at restoring and protecting habitats, ecosystem functions, and native species.
- *Levee Integrity*: the objective of this program is to protect water supplies needed for ecosystems, cities, industry, and farms by reducing the threat of levee failures that would lead to seawater intrusion.

This Proposal meets the CALFED Bay-Delta Program objective relating to *Water Supply*. As indicated within the 2007 IRWM Plan, over 50% of the Region's water supply is currently sourced from imported water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. The Proposal contains planning studies that aim at increasing local water supply generation through increasing reliability of local groundwater (Task 2-1), increasing the feasibility of recycled water use (Task 2-2), and addressing water quality to prevent future water quality impacts to local water supplies (Task 2-3). As such, the proposal will ensure the efficient use of a Statewide water resource (the Region's water supply sources) and work to add flexibility to California's water system by increasing local water supply reliability. Because the Region receives a substantial amount of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Bay Delta), IRWM activities for the Region will also indirectly benefit the *Water Quality*, *Ecosystem Restoration*, and *Levee Integrity* of the Bay Delta by reducing future imported water demands.

Program Preference 5: Address Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Needs of DACs

As indicated within *Attachment 3, Work Plan*, the proposal contains multiple tasks that specifically address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs).



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

Specifically, Task 1-6, Task 2-1, and Task 3-2 will directly address DAC needs within the Region. Furthermore, due to the regional nature of the proposal (refer to Program Preference 1), the proposal will address all residents within the Region, including DACs.

As indicated within Task 1-6 of the Work Plan, the Region is committed to continuing successful DAC outreach to ensure that DAC outreach is maintained throughout development of the IRWM Plan Update. This will ensure that critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs are identified, which will facilitate future implementation of IRWM projects that will address these important issues. Further, Task 2-1 directly addresses water supply needs of DACs within the Anza Area. This task will directly address critical water supply needs of DACs by providing planning work that will allow the Anza Area to resolve water rights conflicts and move forward in establishing a GWMP that will facilitate sustainable use of local groundwater basins and ensure water supply reliability for DACs within the Anza Area. Lastly, Task 3-2 will include preparation of a DAC IRWM Plan Element, which will include a robust description of critical water supply and water quality issues faced by DACs throughout the Region. This task will ensure that work conducted under Task 1 and Task 2 relating to DACs is incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update. By including this information within the IRWM Plan Update, the Region is ensuring that future IRWM projects proposed to address DAC issues will be consistent with the IRWM Plan Update. As such, Task 3-2 will facilitate the future implementation of projects that strive to address critical water supply and/or water quality needs of DACs.

Program Preference 6: Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning

As described within *Attachment 3, Work Plan*, the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) formed to conduct IRWM planning activities in the Region is comprised of the Rancho California Water District (RCWD), the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD), and the County of Riverside (County). Of these three agencies, the County has land use authority within portions of the Region, RCFC&WCD has flood management and water conservation management authority within portions of the Region, and RCWD has water management authority within portions of the Region (refer to Figure 3-1). In addition, the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, and Menifee are USMW IRWM stakeholders. These cities are responsible for land use planning within their municipalities, participate in IRWM project development, and will actively participate in the IRWM Plan Update. Therefore, IRWM planning efforts included within the Proposal, such as implementing outreach efforts, completing planning studies, and developing an IRWM Plan Update, constitute integration of water management and land use planning by convening water management and land use planning agencies to work on important Regional issues.

Regional issues such as water supply, flooding, water quality, and other issues have a clear nexus between land use planning and water management. The Proposal acknowledges this relationship and specifically includes work within Task 3-1 (Relation to Local Water and Land Use Planning) that ensures the dynamics and feedback between the IRWM Plan Update and local planning documents are described within the IRWM Plan Update. Therefore, work completed within the Proposal will ensure that the IRWM Plan Update addresses the IRWM Program Preference of effectively integrating water management with land use planning.



**Planning Grant Proposal
Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region**

Program Preference 7: Integrate Stormwater Resource Plan Requirements

The Proposal will indirectly integrate the Stormwater Resource Plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562 into the IRWM Plan Update. Although a complete Stormwater Resource Plan per the Water Code will not be developed, certain required components will be addressed during the IRWM planning process.

Work included within Task 3 will include an assessment of Resource Management Strategies (RMS) as required by DWR within the 2010 Guidelines. Therefore, Task 3 will include a consideration of RMS relating to stormwater management and pollution prevention. Consideration of how this RMS is implemented within the Region will likely include: a) opportunities to augment local water supply through groundwater recharge or storage for beneficial reuse; b) opportunities for source control for both pollution and stormwater runoff volume, onsite and local infiltration, and reuse, and c) projects to reestablish natural water drainage treatment and infiltration systems or mimic natural system functions to the maximum extent feasible (CWC Section 10562(d)). These considerations would not only address stormwater management concerns, but could also contribute to the development of local water supply options (e.g. stormwater capture and recharge). While specific projects that will be included within the IRWM Plan Update are not known at this time, due to the consideration of the aforementioned RMS, it is possible that the IRWM Plan Update will include projects that improve management of stormwater resources within the Region.

Program Preference 8: Address Statewide Priorities

The Proposal will either directly or indirectly address every Statewide Priority established by DWR. **Table 6-3** demonstrates which Statewide Priorities are addressed by each of the Work Plan tasks and by the Proposal as a whole.

Table 6-3: Work Plan Proposal and Statewide Priorities

Work Plan Proposal Tasks	Drought Preparedness	Reuse Water More Efficiently	Climate Change Response Actions	Expand Environmental Stewardship	Practice Integrated Flood Management	Protect Surface/ Groundwater Quality	Improve Tribal Water/Natural Resources	Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits
Task 1: Outreach and Communication	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●
Task 2: Planning Studies	●	●	○	○		●	●	●
Task 3: IRWM Plan Update	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Task 4: Grant Administration								
USMW Planning Grant Proposal	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●

○ indirectly related; ● directly related



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

Task 1: Outreach and Communication

As indicated within Table 6-3, Task 1 will largely address Statewide Priorities in an indirect manner. This is because all IRWM planning activities and actions completed under Task 2 and Task 3 will be directly supported by work occurring in Task 1. For example, salt and nutrient management planning that will allow the Region to reuse water more efficiently is proposed under Task 2-2. However, these planning activities will be discussed through outreach activities described under Task 1 such as website updates, Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings, etc. As such, Task 1 will provide a venue through which to educate stakeholders regarding IRWM planning activities, and ensure that activities have support and participation from regional stakeholders. For these reasons, Task 1 will indirectly support the following Statewide Priorities: Drought Preparedness, Reuse Water More Efficiently, Climate Change Response Actions, Expand Environmental Stewardship, Practice Integrated Flood Management, and Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality. All of the aforementioned Statewide Priorities will be directly addressed either under Task 2 or Task 3, which will be directly supported by work conducted under Task 1.

Two Statewide Priorities will be directly addressed by Task 1:

- *Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources:* One of the purposes of Task 1 (Task 1-5) is to conduct further outreach to Tribal entities within the Region so that these communities are more engaged in the IRWM process. Such outreach activities include direct coordination, attending Tribal Council Meetings, and developing a Tribal Section of the IRWM Plan Update. These activities will ensure that Tribal issues are included within the IRWM Plan, making Tribal groups potentially eligible for future funding for water programs and projects through IRWM grant programs, which would potentially provide access to funding to Tribes for water programs and projects to better sustain Tribal water and natural resources.
- *Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits:* One of the purposes of Task 1 (Task 1-5 and Task 1-6) is to conduct further outreach efforts to DACs and Tribal entities within the Region so that these communities are more engaged in the IRWM process. Furthermore, another purpose of Task 1-5 and Task 1-6 is to engage DAC and Tribal entities to receive input and feedback on draft and final IRWM Plan sections articulating DAC and Tribal water-related issues and their respective water management (critical water supply or water quality) needs. As such, through outreach conducted under Task 1, DACs and Tribes will be engaged in project development for the IRWM Plan, and will therefore have the opportunity to assist in developing projects that address DAC issues such as safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs and address critical water supply or water quality needs of California Native American tribes within the Region.

Task 2: Regional Water Resources Plans Development

As indicated within Table 6-3, Task 2 will either directly or indirectly address seven (7) of the eight (8) established Statewide Priorities:

- *Drought Preparedness:* Task 2-1 and Task 2-2 will include work to address and adequately manage groundwater resources within the Region, therefore greatly increasing water supply reliability for the Region. Through planning efforts that will increase groundwater management of the Anza Area's groundwater basins (as proposed under Task 2-1), the Region will be better prepared for drought, climate change, or other conditions that may



Planning Grant Proposal Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region

impact water supply reliability of the Anza Area. Further, Task 2-2 includes work that will streamline permitting for recycled water projects, thereby promoting water reuse and recycling, which will allow the Region to diversify local water supply and be better prepared in times of drought.

- *Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently:* Task 2-2 and Task 2-3 will include work to use and reuse water more efficiently. Task 2-2 will involve planning work to facilitate permitting of recycled water projects, which will increase water recycling efforts within the Region. Task 2-3 will include planning work that will facilitate implementation of low impact development (LID) design features, techniques, and practices to reduce stormwater runoff and improve local water quality.
- *Climate Change Response Actions:* Task 2-4 will include work to increase the feasibility of future recycled water projects that could be implemented to offset future imported water demand. As such, Task 2-4 will potentially reduce future energy demand and GHG emissions associated with the Region's water supply sources by offsetting imported water demands with recycled water, which has a much lower energy intensity than imported water sources. These actions will address climate change by reducing GHG emissions, which are considered to be a major contributor to climate change. Because Task 2-4 will allow for future implementation of recycled water projects, this Statewide Priority will be indirectly addressed by Task 2.
- *Expand Environmental Stewardship:* Task 2-2 and Task 2-3 will both indirectly expand environmental stewardship by improving water quality. The planning studies included under both of the aforementioned tasks include work that will improve water quality within groundwater and surface waters throughout the Region. Water quality issues have the potential to substantially diminish watershed and instream functions by impacting the biological integrity of such water systems. By improving water quality, Task 2-2 and Task 2-3 will improve environmental stewardship by protecting biological integrity within the Region.
- *Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality:* Task 2-2 specifically addresses the Region's groundwater quality by developing a salt and nutrient management plan for the Temecula Valley Basin. As such, Task 2-2 directly includes salt and nutrient management planning as a component of the IRWM Plan Update. In addition, the retrofit program included within Task 2-3 also directly addresses the Region's groundwater quality by working on planning activities that will allow the region to implement effective best management practices in the future.
- *Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources:* Task 2-1 of the Proposal contains a planning study that will benefit the Anza Area, which is adjacent to the Cahuilla and Ramona Indian Reservations. Due to the Anza Area's reliance on local groundwater resources, groundwater planning efforts in the Anza Area will better sustain local water resources by increasing future water supply reliability.
- *Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits:* All of the planning studies included within Task 2 are regional projects that will provide multiple benefits to the entire Region. Task 2-1 specifically addresses safe drinking water needs of a DAC by providing planning efforts that will increase groundwater reliability within the Anza Area (a DAC).



**Planning Grant Proposal
Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region**

Task 3: IRWM Plan Update

As indicated within Table 6-3, Task 3 will directly or indirectly address every Statewide Priority for the IRWM Grant Program per the 2010 Guidelines:

- *Drought Preparedness:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the drought-preparedness aspects of Task 2 (see the preceding section for more information) are incorporated into the USMW IRWM Plan. Work completed under Task 3 will ensure that the IRWM Plan includes an evaluation of how the Region's water managers will manage available water supplies during both normal and dry periods.
- *Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the recycled water and LID aspects of Task 2 (see the preceding section for more information) are incorporated into the USMW IRWM Plan. Furthermore, work included within Task 3 will include an assessment of Resource Management Strategies (RMS) as required by DWR within the 2010 Guidelines. Therefore, Task 3 will include a consideration of RMS relating to water use efficiency such as agricultural water use efficiency, urban water use efficiency, and water recycling. While specific projects that will be included within the IRWM Plan Update are not known at this time, due to the consideration of the aforementioned RMS, it is possible that the IRWM Plan Update will include projects that implement water use efficiency measures.
- *Climate Change Response Actions:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the IRWM Plan meets the Climate Change Standard Requirements listed within the 2010 Guidelines, including an assessment of water management actions that will address key climate change issues.
- *Expand Environmental Stewardship:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that identified environmental benefits associated with work included within Task 2 (see the preceding section for more information) are incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update. Work completed under Task 3 will ensure that the IRWM Plan Update includes a discussion of important ecological processes and environmental resources within the Region and the associated water demands to support environmental needs. While specific projects that will be included within the IRWM Plan Update are not known at this time, it is likely that the IRWM Plan Update will include projects that practice, promote, improve, and expand environmental stewardship to protect and enhance the environment.
- *Practice Integrated Flood Management:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the RMS relating to improving flood management is considered by the Region. Further, given that the RWMG contains a local flood control district, the IRWM Plan Update will have an in-depth description of water management issues as they relate to flood control. While specific projects that will be included within the IRWM Plan are not known at this time, it is likely that the IRWM Plan Update will include projects that promote and practice integrated flood management to provide multiple benefits.
- *Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the groundwater quality improvement aspects of Task 2-2 and Task 2-3 (see the preceding section for more information) are incorporated into the IRWM Plan. Work completed under Task 3 will ensure that the IRWM Plan includes a discussion of the



**Planning Grant Proposal
Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region**

importance of protecting and restoring water quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses.

- *Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources:* Work included within Task 3 will ensure that the IRWM Plan section describing local tribes and their water management needs is incorporated into the IRWM Plan. In addition, work completed under Task 3 will potentially position Tribal entities for access to funding for water programs and projects to better sustain Tribal water and natural resources.
- *Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits:* DWR Guidelines note that this priority pertains to proposals that develop multi-benefit projects with consideration of affected DACs and vulnerable populations and contain projects that address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACs. Work included within Task 3 will ensure that a DAC Element is prepared and that the identification of DAC water management needs included within Task 1-1 are incorporated into the IRWM Plan Update. As such, the IRWM Plan Update will potentially position DACs for access to funding for water projects that address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACs.